

## **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendment, the claims will be 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-12.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 7 has been incorporated in claim 1 and all of the remaining claims ultimately depend on claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection on prior art is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Kazuhiro MACHIGUCHI et al.

By:

Matthew M. Jacob Registration No. 25,154 Attorney for Applicants

MJ/kjf Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 August 23, 2006